Causes of French Revolution "Man is born free and everywhere he is in chains." Rousseau	1) Enlightenment ideas spread. -*Philosophes (*enlightenment thinkers that believed in justice and freedom). They wanted government to change things. 2) The Glorious Revolution of England in 1688. 3) (Heavy debt) Due to the American Revolution of 1770-1780's. --France backed colonists, was very expensive. Helped drive France into major debt.
The 3 Estates *"ancien regime"*	>**First Estate**: Clergy (Church members) >**Second Estate**: nobility and aristocracy ---had all the wealth and power. ---paid no taxes, own 90% of all land, wealthy, only people allowed to hold high political office. ---had little to do but please the King. --- love this old system. >**Third Estate**: (everyone else) bourgeoisie, urban working class, peasants. ---included everyone but clergymen and aristocrats. ---bourgeoisie were wealthy (means "townspeople") business owners. ---payed <u>all</u> the taxes, did almost all the work. ---had less political rights and privileges. ---peasants had the least amount of power.
French Monarchy <u>King Louis XIV</u> "I *am* the state." <u>King Louis XV</u> "After us comes the flood." <u>King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette</u> "Let them eat cake."	<u>>King Louis XIV ("The Sun King")</u> =reigned 1643-1715 ---most powerful monarch in Europe at the time. ---everything revolved around him. ---was very hard working, was his own chief minister. ---Had many courtiers (spent money, dressed extravagantly, flattered and complimented the king, elaborate rule of etiquette). ---Had Palace of Versailles built outside of Paris (instead of palace of Tuileries). A palace w/over 1,000 rooms, halls of mirrors, etc. --life may have been dangerous there because the people of Paris were constantly threatening to burn down the palace and overthrow the king. <u>>King Louis XV (Great Grandson of Louis XIV)</u> =reigned 1715-1775 ---became King at 5 yrs. Old ---not an effective leader, was considered to lazy to govern. ---heavily taxed poor, and spent $$ extravagantly ---died of smallpox.